YEAR BOOK

2023-2024

THE POINT

THE POINT
WHERE COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY CONNECT

THE POINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point sec

We work with our neighbors to celebrate the lif
an area traditionally defined solely in terms of its poverty, crime rate, poor schools, and substandard housing.

We believe the area's residents, their talents and aspirations, are greatest assets.

THE POINT CDC Board of Directors and Staff 2013 - 2014

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Thank you to POINT Staff who connect the community creatively and selflessly throughout the year.
You are all the TRUE HEROES of Hunts Point - Thank you beyond words!

SUPPORT THE POINT

- Mail a check to:
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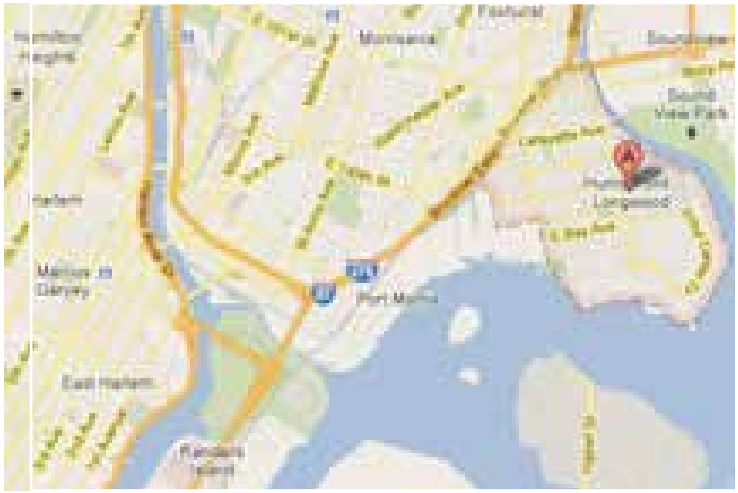
  940 Garrison Ave., Bronx NY 10474
- Make an in-kind donation
- Volunteer
- Join our mailing list at www.thepoint.org and get programs updates.

For more info.call: 718- 542-4139



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM STUDENTS

GROUP A

OMAIRY PICHARDO

ALEX ARMENTA

MERCEDES CANDIDO

BERNARDINO GARCIA

GROUP B

NAZAREE GUERRO

TALIA PANNELL

ANGELIQUE CAMPOS

GROUP C

ILYSE BAKER
NATHANIEL NOLAN
AALIYAH CULVER
BECERAINY DOMINGEZ
BRENDA CANDIDO
DESTINY GARCIA
SONIA RUIZ
NEYSHASHENKA CONDE
JOANNA ARMENTA

GROUP D

GERARDO GARCIA

KIMANI CRAWLEY

KIMORE MCDUFFY BURGUESS

LUCAS SIERRA

MANUEL GARCIA

CHRISTOPHER CAMPOS

GROUP E

ALYAN MARTINEZ

HATY MOLINA

SHAWN ORTIZ

JALA ABREU

BEATRIZ CANDIDO

VIVIANA CANDIDO

DANIEL RUIZ

JASEAN MICHIE

ANUCKSUNAMUN CONDE

CHELSEA MARTINEZ

GROUP F

CORDEL DAVIDSON

MATHEW BAEZ

ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ

MICHAEL NUÑEZ

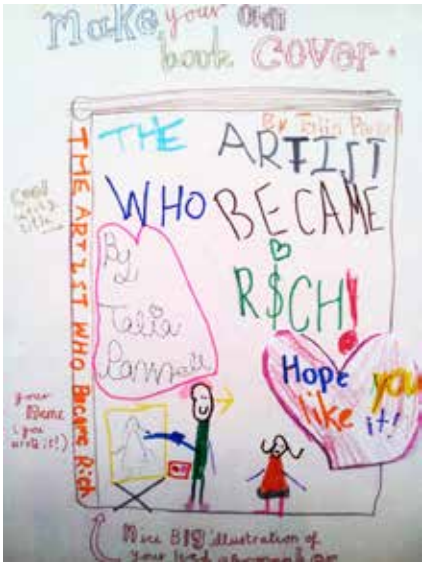
NICOLAS WATSON

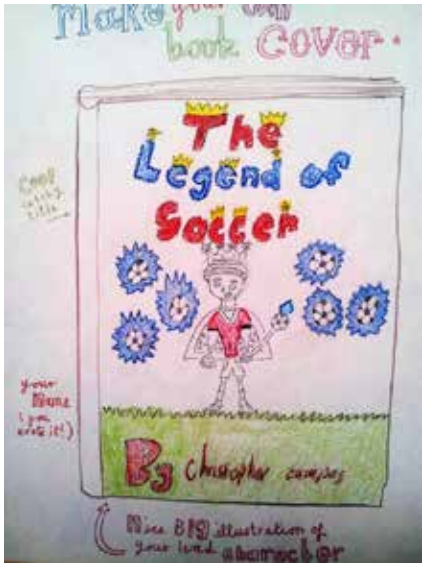
JUSTIN BOLDEN

LAREINI GOTAY

LITERACY

This year in Literacy our youth worked on numerous activities, such as: learning and working together on team work and individual self esteem through team builders, took visits to the New York Public Library to understand library structure and resources to engage more within The POINT's Library of Progress, and lastly created their very own stories, characters, and/or book covers that will be put in an Anthology Collection and will sit as a community contribution within our library space. I have been most fortunate to spend the year progressing with our youth on all these matters.





LIBRARY OF PROGRESS

A lot of hard work from so many individuals to get our Library of Progress to where it is now has been accomplished. Two years of POINT and community support, input, and team work to be exact. Spaces have been transformed and have been a place that invites more use and collaboration within our community. Looking forward to more growth and revolutionary input on what literacy means to our community, and the empowerment we encourage in one another to make our space our own. I am very grateful to have been apart of it. Thank you to all our volunteers, leaders, youth, community collaborators, and the Julia Palmer Library Development and Literacy Support Project with The Robert Bowne Foundation and Center for Educational Options.

City Year Clubs

Imagine That! is an arts and crafts course designed for Group A. In this class, students created keepsakes for themselves, as well as gifts for their friends and family. For instance, they made figurines with homemade play dough and paintings with vegetables. They also learned how to appreciate everyday items as artistic tools. Finally, they connected with the instructor, Ms. Katie, who enjoyed the same activities as a child.

Mr. Rashid and Bernardino coloring eggs

Victor's 'snowduck' made with homemade play dough

Alex painting with vegetables

Sand (salt) Art

Mercedes' drip paint art

Group A making rainbows using fruit loops

City Year Clubs

Nazaree tests her egg drop contraption

Ballerina Builders is a project –based engineering course designed for the girls of Group B. In this class, we studied binary code and built structures. For instance, we created bridges with drinking straws and roller coasters with cardboard tubes. We also played with LEGO blocks and read our favorite book

--Rosie Revere, Engineer.

Talia and Ms. Raynier build a drinking straw bridge

Angelique shares her roller coaster

City Year Clubs

50 Acts of Greatness is a class based on the social, emotional and leadership development of children in Groups C and D. This was achieved through bonding activities (appreciation cards; the Onion ball game), self-confidence activities, and sportsmanship activities (Jenga wars) among many others.

Underwater Wildlife is an ecosystem and animal appreciation course designed for group A. In this class, we studied animals such as sharks and jellyfish. Additionally, we created artistic representations of these creatures. For instance, we used paper plates and streamers to depict jellyfish. We also used plastic bottles and food coloring to make an underwater themed environment!

Easy as 1,2,3 is an engaging math class that encourages our 5th grade students to feel more comfortable and confident with math concepts and numbers. Our students learned math through games, such as the 24 Game, and Jeopardy.

Express Yo'self is a creative writing class that fosters the art of using words with our 4th graders. These students wrote comics, poems, life stories, and newspaper articles. Express Yo'self is an outlet for self-reflection and group bonding, where students shared and heard their voice.

City Year Clubs

Zumbalicious is a dance and health awareness course designed for the girls of Groups B and C. In this class, we emphasized regular exercise by dancing to top hits. Additionally, we learned about mental health; for instance, we discussed self-confidence and respect for others. Finally, we reviewed the characteristics of healthy diets.

The Power of the Pen is a creative writing course designed for Group E. In this class, we studied proper grammar and mechanics by correcting sentences that had errors. Additionally, we created literary works of different genres. For instance, we wrote letters, drew comics, and shared personal narratives. Finally, we studied storytelling techniques by viewing and discussing contemporary and classic films.

SOCIAL CIRCUS

We started off the year with coaches-in-training Charles Irizarry and Tarik Solomon being promoted into coaching positions, followed this winter with Angel Torres, Yves Celestin and Jean-Tae Francis being promoted to substitute coaches, making them the first generation of Cirque students hired into the program.

In the fall we set a goal of creating a group juggling project and were aided by former Cirque du Monde coach, Paris, Bryant Park jugglers, Valentin and Robin Hu, and Chicago contemporary juggler, Brian P Dailey. We created a series of videos showing our interpretations of a variety of juggling patterns and developed an act for live performance during the Teen showcase in May.

This year we reached beyond the walls of our classroom to become more socially aware and make a positive contribution to our community. The coaches in training came together in March and April to facilitate workshops that brought together our students at MS424, MS323 and teen class at THE POINT.

In addition to advancing their skills such as tumbling, juggling and aerials, students participated in a number of performances. Jean-Tae and Angel juggled at the Bronx Museum of the Arts in collaboration with Carey Clark and Bronx Arts Alliance. Rick Rodriguez performed static trapeze at The Bindlestiff Family Cirkus Cavalcade of Youth on Coney Island.
Students also had the opportunity to see Cirque Eloize's "Cirkopolis" and Cirque du Soleil's "Amaluna," and took a field trip to the Bryant Park Juggling Club.

The class is also continuing work on a video project that shows how they have transformed negative labels and stereotypes about themselves into self-image through the process of learning circus-arts.

SOCIAL CIRCUS

We worked with after school groups E and F this year on a variety of circus skills including juggling, Chinese yo-yo, tumbling, mini-trampoline, tight wire, acrobatic pyramids and physical comedy. Students also played focus and theatre games and learned how these games relate to circus as a performing art.

Group F presented a group pyramid act during the April "That Kids on Point".

As the oldest group of students in the after school program, some Group F students also elect to participate in the Teen Cirque class.

Cirque du Monde also began teaching after school circus classes MS424 and MS323 this spring.

HUNTS POINT ACADEMY OF MUSIC

We had a fun filled year of exploration, composition, performance, and team work. We saw many faces from ASP as well as non-ASP join our music ensemble teams. Many youths had not played instruments before and learned the basics and the importance of working with one another to create a cohesive experience. Others joined the program as continuing musicians honing their skills. The hard work paid off at the end of the year; student group had written their own songs, performed popular cover songs, and the teen group learned the basics of jazz music. Great job everyone!

ICP AT THE POINT

Ages 9–18 youths learn the fundamental of black and white photography for 10 weeks (5 weeks in the summer) The program gives students access to photo supplies, camera, and darkroom to gain knowledge of this media. Students focus on personal vision and photographing subjects in their community. During this year, students went on fieldtrips like The Studio in Harlem, International Center of Photography (ICP) Museum, and Bronx Documentary Center. They were introduced to guest artists Russell Fredrick and Ricky Flores. Classes cumin-lated in final presentatons of students' work to show to staff, family and friends.

A class demonstration on manual cameras.

Class discussion with instructor Bayete Ross Smith. Photo by Silivia Suarez

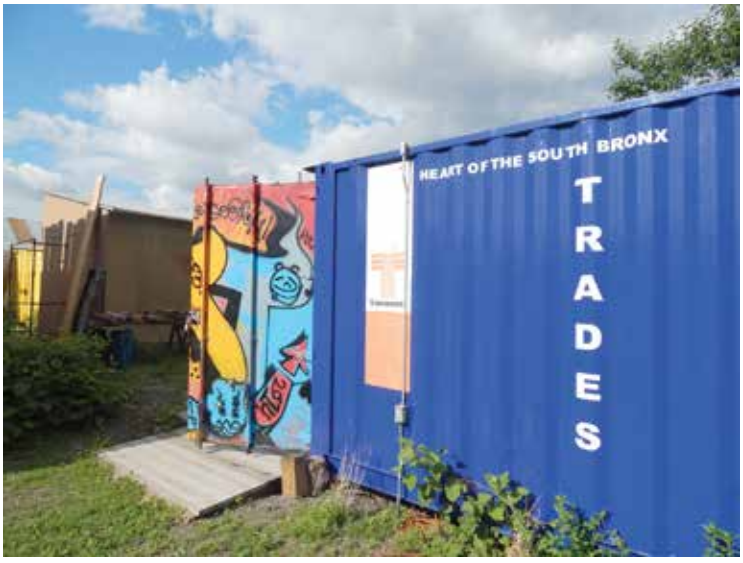
In the darkroom using the enlarger to print a photograph. Photo by Silvia Suarez

VISUAL ARTS

Carey, by Mathew Baez

Ananda Nahu working on THE POINT's Barretto Street wall (Female Flava) in honor of Yvette a Hunts Point resident photographd by Ricky Flores. Ananda came to New York on a One Big City project sponsored by ArtsLink where she worked with sound artist Jeremy Thal.

Jetta, the Spirit of the Jet Stream Banner, designed by Chen Carrasco and painted by volunteers at Sustainable South Bronx's Earth Day event at Hunts Point Riverside Park.



South Bronx TRADES exhibit, photographs by Martine Fougeron, opens at the Art Container at THE POINT's Campus for the Arts and Environment. The entrance to the container is a graphic by David Yearwood that says "ART"!

VISUAL ARTS

Sharon De La Cruz, Ruby Walking, hosted by THE POINT and D.O.T. NYC -- a beautiful statement about Ruby Bridges' struggle in the history of integration and how her triumph and struggle lives with us still.

Tyrone Strother - Butterflies, Silk Painting

POINT artist, David Yearwood, conducts a Village of Murals Tour for CAT, Creative Arts Team, Middle Schools Literacy Initiative students from The Bronx Early Collegiate Academy.

Juan Ilarazza, Dream/NightMare included in The Bronx Museum's Teen Council Exhibit

It has been a great year for Visual Arts at THE POINT, both inside and outside THE POINT Walls. These few images are just some of the highlights.

VISUAL ARTS

Alejandra, by Mathew Baez

This year students from group B and F worked on different collaborative projects. Each brough something unique to the group. Students learned how to draw from life as well as from imagination. They also worked with Nicer from Tats Cru, on generating ideas for the mural that later was painted by Tats Cru at the entrance of THE POINT Campus. At the end of the year we visited Krasdale galleries and got a tour by art Collector Sig Balka.

A.C.T.I.O.N.

(Activists Coming to Inform Our Neighborhood)

A.C.T.I.O.N. is an energetic group of local youth from The Bronx who work around different environmental and social justice issues that affect this community and come together with community members to find solutions to those issues.

This year we've welcomed nine new members and a new campaign to our work. The new campaign, Waterfront Justice, focuses on creating a resiliency plan for our waterfront that protects our community in the face of future natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy.

A.C.T.I.O.N. Family and Alumni Dinner 2013. The youth's first opportunity to share the work they've been doing with family, friends and A.C.T.I.O.N. Alumni. It's also an opportunity to present each of the campaigns they will be working on for the entire year, including our newest campaign, Waterfront Justice.

A.C.T.I.O.N. youth led a workshop at this year's Bronx Park Speakup Assembly, held at Lehman College. The workshop, titled "Engaging Youth", was an opportunity to exchange ideas and receive feedback on advocating for parks that are relevant to the needs of the youth and to find ways to interest younger folks to come and enjoy our green spaces.

A.C.T.I.O.N.

(Activists Coming to Inform Our Neighborhood)

The youth also had an opportunity to meet with other youth collectives from around NYC and talk about policing practices and how it deeply affects youth. This was an opportunity for youth to come together and put their community organizing knowledge to work while connecting with other young people and build community.

A.C.T.I.O.N. participating in this year's Celebrate Hunts Point event held on Earth Day. The youtb helped to garden areas around Hunts Point's Recreational Center.

The youth participating in the march against FreshDirect. the march, organized by South Bronx Unite, was a great opportunity for our youth to advocate for better food options for our community and for more access to park spaces and our waterfront.

A.C.T.I.O.N.

(Activists Coming to Inform Our Neighborhood)

"This year A.C.T.I.O.N.'s video about police profiling of youth was chosen as a finalist for the Do It Your Damn Self Youth Film Festival in Cambridge, Massachusets. Mandy Lopez and Dawn Oritz traveled to Massachusets and took part in the Festival's film screening event where the were able to talk about the process of creating the film, with mentorship from Global Action Project during the summer of 2013."

This year's Town Hall was held on April 23rd. This event is A.C.T.I.O.N. main community organizing effort, whereby the youth engage with and hear feedback from community members on the updates about their campaigns. This year's campaign partners included new partnerships with The Bronx Defenders and members of The Hunts Point Lifelines team for the Rebuild By Design competition.

BLANK PLATE

Culinary Arts and Design

In Blank Plate teen chefs got to reimagine their relationship with food by activating their senses, stories and spaces. They learned how to prepare healthy food from scratch, and the importance of eating whole foods. At each class students prepared a meal for the community. This year students practiced their knife skills, food identification, eggs 101, dressings and roux, plating and chicken fabrication. They also made tapas, stews, soups, biscuits, salads and deserts, as well as fruit smoothies and learn how to extract juice from fruits and vegetables.

One of the foods that brought memories to me were the beets. Dominicans use beets in their potato salad and it gives the salad a beautiful purple color. When I saw the beets I thought of my mom and watching her make the salad. I also thought of my grandma because she puts beets in her juice that she makes every morning and had me drink it. She puts all types of fruits and veggies in it, but the beets really hit home. The beautiful color of beets reminded me of the two most important women in my life making amazing things. - Nairee

W.O.M.E.N. 'S GROUP

This year the WOMEN's group has continued to provide a platform for young women to express themselves. During the beginning of the year we focused on our sex-ed curriculum as well as discussed current events that effected us. This past Spring, we were fortunate to partner with Project Envision and worked to change the social norms that perpetuate sexual violence. Lastly, we held our annual event, "Female Flava", with this year's theme being "Super People, Breaking Gender Norms". We also have published 2 issues of POP this year. Our zine contains more content and an improved design

THE KNOWLEDGE HOUSE

Guessan, 3D designing on Sketchup

The Knowledge House prepares young people to not only thrive in the tech-driven economy, but to innovate and problem-solve, serving as leaders and paying it forward to others in their community. By connecting innovative urban professionals and entrepreneurs to young adults in underutilized communities, we spread awareness of the current movements of lean startup, innovation, and technology. The Knowledge House aims to create a pipeline of empowered community leaders from underutilized neighborhoods equipped with the 21st century skills necessary to launch careers or ventures spurring innovative projects in their communities.

Crafting the perfect elevator pitch!

Hip-Hop and Digital Media Discussion

Just finished coding!

Learning to code video games

3D printing. Watching it work!

Learning to code on @GA's Dash

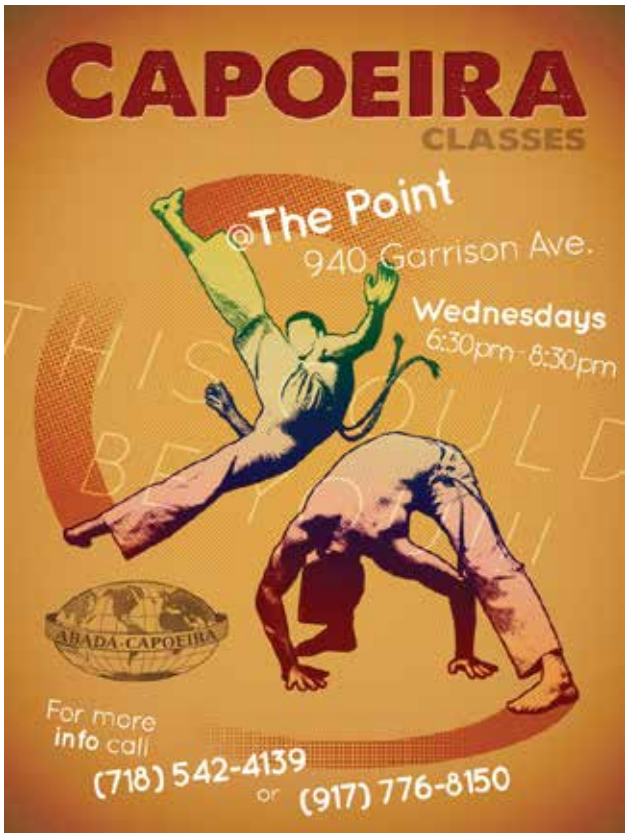
OPEN HYDRANT

OH! Open Hydrant Equity Ensemble Theatre Company has enjoyed a banner year at The Point! We opened our Equity season with Dani Girl, the uplifting musical about a young girl's battle against leukemia. OH!'s next Equity production was the hilarious Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, which saw community member Norberto Troncoso earning his Equity card. OH! also brought to the stage the brilliant family favorite, Fools in Love. a 1950's Doo-Wop musical that will lead off our next Equity season which will run in rep with Tempest Toss'd, the acclaimed re-imagining of Shakespeare's The Tempest. Next season, every OH! member will all be able to earn their Equity cards. OH! will also join together with the Festival of New American Musicals to produce FUTURE FEST, a coming together of exciting new talent, singing selections from new musicals hoping to find their way to Broadway.

This year, OH!'s New Waves, an experimental non-Equity branch of exciting new writers , directors and actors, brought to the stage four Festival of Shorts. With each, our audiences have grown so large that our fourth festival played to standing-room-only audiences. Also incredibly successful is
Early Stages, OH!'s young artists' branch, whose members have won top honors at acting/Speech competitions across the country. Winning State Championships, many of our young actors are their way to the National Forensic Championships in Kansas City.
They are looking forward to working with HSBC in getting Fools in Love and Tempest Toss'd to schools across the tri-state area.

CAPOEIRA

Capoeira is a unique Afro-Brazilian art form which is an exciting combination of music, martial arts and acrobatics with roots in Afro-Brazilian culture and evolves to this day. Capoeira provides a cultural physical education program where most students learn much more than the fundamentals. The A.C.E. (Abada-Capoeira Experience) employs Capoeira as an extraordinary teaching tool and everyone involved at THE POINT has shown just how far you can go by setting goals and always giving your best effort to accomplish them. What you can achieve when you set your mind to it is amazing.



THE POINT In-school Programs

THE POINT CDC was fortunate to work with three schools this year – South Brooklyn Community High School/Good Shepherd Services in Red Hook, Brooklyn, MS 323 Bronx Writing Academy and MS 424 Hunts Point Middle School in the Bronx teaching either Digital Media, Social Circus or both.

MS 424 Hunts Point Middle School

Students from our local middle school, MS 424 were treated to 20 weeks of Social Circus and Digital Media workshops. Although we had a small group, Charles Irizarry, Tarik Solomon, Bashira Webb and Joseph Gilmore did an amazing job of facilitating workshops that introduced our young artists to both disciplines for the first time. Students were also able to participate in workshops at our mains site as they were introduced to our programs, and now they are all a part of our larger community. We look forward to continued success with students from MS 424 in the near future.

Photo by: Nashade Gary

THE POINT In-school Programs

MS 323 Bronx Writing Academy

About 15 students from the Bronx Writing Academy spent ten weeks working on both Social Circus and Digital Media projects alongside Polly Solomon and Mark Nevers. Highlights for the Digital Media project included several trips into the community to interview and take portraits of local residents as well as an exhibit that now resides at THE POINT's Library of Progress Reading Room. Social Circus workshop had an amazing time with students who were treated to the fundamentals of juggling, tumbling, ensemble performance, diabolo, and more – their rendition of "Who's on First", in Spanish, was classic!

South Brooklyn Community High School/Good Shepherd Services in Red Hook, Brooklyn

Instructors Bashira Webb and Joseph Gilmore worked extensively with students from this high school teaching them the fundamentals of digital photography and storytelling. Students created hundreds of images of their community and at home, and the work culminated in 3 gallery shows that now live permanently at their school. Students were also treated to trips to Art and Commerce and local photo and art studios to learn what it takes to be a working artist. This past semester selected students were allowed to turn this opportunity into an internship, and were paid to help create their school's yearbook.

Darius Davis

I've been with THE POINT since 3rd grade, so that makes it about 12 years I've been with this organization! In the years I've been here, I've taken part in a lot of programs including Teen Cirque, MISTER, Beatmaking workshops, Music, and A.C.T.I.O.N. Over the years, THE POINT has given me so much but the most important thing this organization has given me has been its unwavering support. As a result, I will be attending Dutchess Community College in the fall, where I will be majoring in music and film.

I've been going to THE POINT for over 10 years. I've gone through most of the programming, from the after school-program to A.C.T.I.O.N. Now I am a Program Developer for Fordham Bedford Housing Corp. My job is to create recreational activities and connect community members. This Spring, I was able to come back to THE POINT and help Group F with their booth for the Passion Fair. Their booth focused on living healthy, we did physical activities and made juice from fresh fruits and veggies.

Teresa Rivera

Evonny Escoto

I've been with THE POINT for seven years where I've had the opportunity to participate in A.C.T.I.O.N, film the movie "The We + The I", and return to A.C.T.I.O.N. as a community organizing intern. I love THE POINT because it is incredibly inviting and does so much for community members and people outside of Hunts Point alike.

In my time with THE POINT, I've been able to learn about myself, the struggles I've been blinded by, and what my responsibility in finding solutions to those struggles is. In turn, THE POINT has prepared me to be an advocate for myself and the people around me. I just graduated from Fordham University with a Bachelors Degree in Sociology with a minor in Environmental Policy.

Earl Skinner and Danny Peralta leading a training for BuildOn managers on asset based interventions.

Yearbook cover by Mathew Baez, 11 years old.

Thank you to all ours interns from the CUNY Service Corps; Yamil,Cinque, Myriah, Alex and Michael as well as our in house interns: Evonny, Omar, Darius, Angie, Melissa and Alejandra who help us at THE POINT with their powerful service.

Acknowledgements

826 Literacy • 92nd Street Y • A1 Food Distribution • Abada Capoeira • A.C.T.I.O.N. • Adam Ahuja
Advocates for Youth • After School Alliance • Alessandro Cajariti Crivelli and Max Senise / Estate 4 • Allegro Coffee
Amanda Leacock, Incksa Lonius • Andrew Gurewich • Andy Wolf • Ankita Rathi • Anti-Violence Project
Anya Warburg • AscendTex Outfitter • BAAD! • Barry Rosen • BASCOM CATERING • Bashira Webb
Beats, Rhymes and Life • Betsy Davidson • Blank Plate • Boswyck Farms • Bowling Green University
Brandon Bellangee • Brecht Forum • Bronx Auto Glass • Bronx Beer Hall • Bronx Charter School of the Arts
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Bronx Documentary Center • Bronx Latin American Arts Biennial • Bronx Museum of The Arts • Bronx Hip-Hop 101
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Corbin Hill Farm • Damien Griffin & Bronx River Alliance • Darius Davis • Davila Family • DEP • Diana Revson
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Earl Skinner 8 Father and Son BBQ • FDNY Ladder 48 and Engine Company 94 • Floor Royalty Crew
Betty Fonseca • Caio Fonseca • Isabel Fonseca • Fordham University & Gabelli School of Business
Stephen Frailey /SVA • Frank Fournier • Free Arts, NYC • From The Bronx • George & Spencer Bradley
Gina Arias & Bronx Teen Connect • Global Action Project • Glocal Kids • H&R Block
Hammer • HEART • HPAC • Hunts Point Express • Hunts Point Library • Hunts Point Rec Center • Hush Tours
Hyde Leadership Academy • ICP 2012 -2013 Instructors • IDEA • Iridescent Science Center • Isabel Fonseca
James and Amanda Moffat • James J Peters VA Hospital • Jason Rosario • Jewelbriel • Jim Warburg • Joahan Suarez
Joanne Olivencia • John & Laura Avedon • Joseph Gilmore • JR & Marc Azouley • Jump Start • Los Seis del Sur
Lucia Hernandez • Mainland Media • Materials for the Arts • Mariposa • May May
Michael Glazebrook • Michael Kamper • Michael Laing • Michel Gondry/Production Company • Michelle Cordero
Misra Walker • Morris Heights Health Center • M.I.S.T.E.R. • Monroe College • Montefiore • Mr. Willie Dynamite
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The Columbus Campus Pep Ban • The HIVE Network • The House of Spoof Collective
The Hunts Point Academy of Music • The JM Kaplan Fund • The Latin American Baseball Academy
The Laundrymat Project • THEARTOFLYRICS • TME Pro Studios • Tools of War • Tribal Stone • UNITAS
United Health Center • United Health Plan • Universal Partnership • UPS • Urban Word NYC • Vanessa Cruz Setton
Variety the Children's Charity & Young Variety • Victor Davila • William Marshall • W.O.M.E.N. • YMCA Castlehill
YMCA New American Welcome Cente • Yolanda Colon • Yolanda Rodriguez

Visitors to THE POINT's Campus and supporters of events year round • All families who trust us with their children on a daily basis • All POINT staff families for supporting us on our mission to build community - thank you for the inspiration!

AUTOGRAPHS